

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Serial Number: 09/475,220

Filing Date: December 30, 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMMUNICATING STATE INFORMATION USING VERTICAL BLANKING INTERVAL

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7. (Once Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being an NTSC compliant video signal.

8. (Once Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being an NTSC compliant video signal, the data being encoded onto the vertical blanking interval of the NTSC compliant video signal in compliance with an Electronic Industry Association standard.

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11. (Once Amended) A system, comprising:

- means for processing a received signal;
- means for transmitting a control signal to said processing means;
- means, coupled with said processing means for receiving and decoding the control signal;
- means, coupled with said processing means, for receiving and decoding the control signal;
- means, coupled with said processing means, for encoding data onto an output signal provided by said processing means in response to the control signal; and
- means for transmitting the output signal to said transmitting means wherein said transmitting means is capable of decoding the encoded data from the provided signal;
- wherein said data is encoded onto a vertical blanking interval of the output signal.

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15. (Once Amended) A method, comprising:

- transmitting a control signal to a signal processor from an information handling system that controls the signal processor;
- receiving and decoding the control signal;
- providing an output signal from the signal processor to the information handling system; and
- encoding data onto the provided output signal in response to the control signal;
- wherein the output signal provided by said signal processor is a video signal, and

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the data is encoded onto an available vertical blanking interval of the output signal.

19. (Once Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
determining that the available vertical blanking interval is not available during a
predetermined time after decoding the control signal; and
interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.

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20. (Once Amended) A program of instructions storable on a computer readable
medium for causing an information handling system to execute a series of steps, the steps
comprising:

transmitting a control signal from an information handling system to a signal processor
that the information handling system controls;
receiving and decoding the control signal;
providing an output signal from the signal processor to the information handling system;
and
encoding data onto the output signal in response to the control signal;
wherein the output signal provided by said signal processor is a video signal, and the data
is encoded onto an available vertical blanking interval of the output signal.

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24. (Once Amended) A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the steps further
comprising the steps of:

determining that the available vertical blanking interval is not available during a
predetermined time after decoding the control signal; and
interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.